



How Do We Get To A State Water Plan?

State Water Supply Planning in
Virginia

WSP Started in 1927

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VIRGINIA CONSERVATION COMMISSION
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES AND POWER

BULLETIN No. 4

SURFACE WATER SUPPLY OF VIRGINIA POTOMAC, RAPPAHANNOCK AND YORK RIVER BASINS 1927-1942



PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
1944

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES
H. B. HOLMES, JR., *Commissioner*

92-16

SURFACE WATER SUPPLY OF VIRGINIA POTOMAC, RAPPAHANNOCK, AND YORK RIVER BASINS 1951-1955



PREPARED COOPERATIVELY BY THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
1957

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

BULLETIN NO. 12 **SURFACE WATER SUPPLY OF VIRGINIA** POTOMAC, RAPPAHANNOCK AND YORK RIVER BASINS 1942-1950



PREPARED COOPERATIVELY BY THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
1952

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES
H. B. HOLMES, JR., *Commissioner*

Earl G. Scott
Supplies & Surveys 91.9

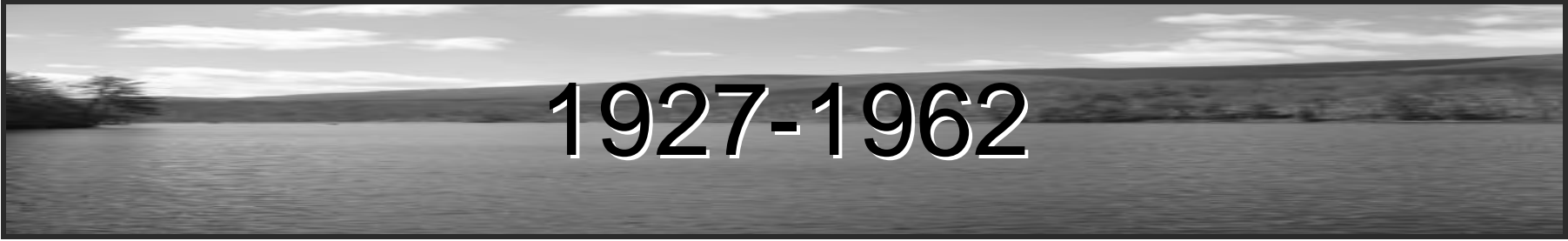
BULLETIN NO. 24 **SURFACE WATER SUPPLY OF VIRGINIA** POTOMAC, RAPPAHANNOCK, AND YORK RIVER BASINS 1956-1960



INCLUDES DATA FOR STATIONS OPERATED BY EMPLOYEES OF THE COMMONWEALTH
AND THOSE OPERATED BY EMPLOYEES OF THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
1961

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**PLANNING & COMMUNITY
AFFAIRS**
Division Bldg.
Richmond, Virginia 23219



1927-1962

- ◆ These early water supply plans looked at gage data and water availability
- ◆ Primarily surface water but there were some similar reports on groundwater
- ◆ By major river basin
- ◆ Issued every 5-8 years

Plans Expand 1968 and 1988

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

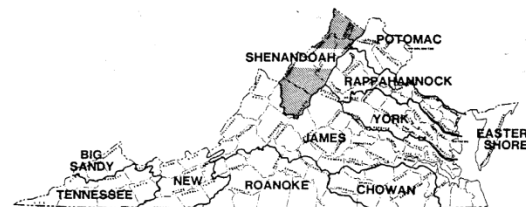
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES



COMPREHENSIVE WATER RESOURCES PLAN

VOLUME I - INTRODUCTION
PLANNING BULLETIN 207
1968

SHENANDOAH WATER SUPPLY PLAN



Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia State Water Control Board
Planning Bulletin 345

March 1988



1968 -1972 Plans

- ◆ Action came after extended multi-year drought
- ◆ Water availability
- ◆ First inventory of local use
- ◆ Five years to complete plans for each major river basin



1985-1988 Plans

- ◆ Action came after two year drought
- ◆ Water availability
- ◆ Inventory of local systems and use
- ◆ First analysis of safe yield
- ◆ First analysis of local demand
- ◆ Four years to complete basin plans for each major river basin



Common elements pre-2010

- ◆ Water availability
- ◆ Local inventory of use
- ◆ Planning at major river basin scale

- ◆ Is this useful?
- ◆ Why did these plans fail to meet state or local needs?



After 20 years, why do WSP now?

- ◆ Drought of 1999-2002
- ◆ Some localities unprepared: no drought contingency, over-estimated safe yield
- ◆ Major local projects failed to get approved
- ◆ Resources are finite, demand is increasing
- ◆ Multi-purpose resource



What is this “State Plan”?

- ◆ “Collection” of local and regional plans
- ◆ Identify “conflicts” among users and where supply is adequate or not
- ◆ It should be “meaningful”
- ◆ Have an “impact” on the permit process



SB1221 (2003)

- ◆ Avoid looking at SB1221 in a vacuum
- ◆ Opportunity to build on previous planning efforts and statutory authority
- ◆ “Old” objectives are still valid and provide useful structure and context
- ◆ Capacity did not exist to complete technical analyses in 1972 and 1988



What Context Does The Statute Provide?

- ◆ SB1221 amended 62.1-44.38 which says:
 - The Board shall prepare plans and programs for the management of the water resources of this Commonwealth in such a manner as to encourage, promote and secure the maximum beneficial use and control thereof. These plans and programs shall be prepared for each major river basin of this Commonwealth, and appropriate subbasins...

What Context Does The Statute Provide? (cont)

- ◆ 62.1-44.38 says that in these plans, the Board shall :
 - (i) estimate current water withdrawals and use for agriculture, industry, domestic use, and other significant categories of water users;
 - (ii) project water withdrawals and use by agriculture, industry, domestic water use, and other significant categories of water users;
 - (iii) estimate, for each major river and stream, the minimum instream flows necessary during drought conditions to maintain water quality and avoid permanent damage to aquatic life in streams, bays, and estuaries;
 - (iv) evaluate, to the extent practicable, the ability of existing subsurface and surface waters to meet current and future water uses, including minimum instream flows, during drought conditions;
 - (v) evaluate, in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Health and local water supply managers, the current and future capability of public water systems to provide adequate quantity and quality of water;
 - (vi) identify water management problems and alternative water management plans to address such problems; and
 - (vii) evaluate hydrologic, environmental, economic, social, legal, jurisdictional, and other aspects of each alternative management strategy identified.



How did SB1221 change the statute?

- ◆ Added 62.1-44.38:1
- ◆ establish a comprehensive water supply planning process for the development of local, regional and state water supply plans consistent with the provisions of this chapter
- ◆ in accordance with criteria and guidelines developed by the Board
- ◆ Tweaked the “old” process to make the process continuous, adaptive, and based on locally derived data.



Will it be better?

- ◆ That depends on all of us
- ◆ Will we decide to avoid litigation when conflicts are identified?
- ◆ Will this planning and analysis facilitate “better,” more predictable permit outcomes?
- ◆ How will the process evolve?

